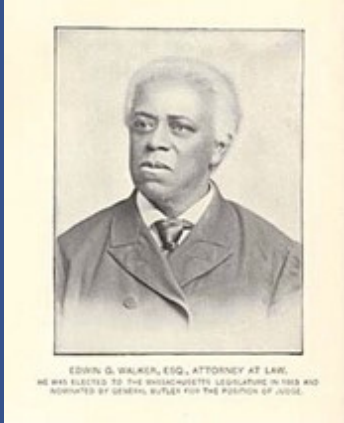


"FIRSTS" IN THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE LEGISLATURE



**FIRST BLACK LEGISLATORS
IN MA**

**BOTH SERVED IN 1867
HOUSE**

**Edwin Garrison Walker
&
Charles Lewis Mitchell**



**FIRST INDIGENOUS STATE
LEGISLATOR IN THE UNITED STATES
(1886 HOUSE):**

Watson Freeman Hammond

2. WATSON F. HAMMOND, Republican, farmer, Mashpee; was born in Boston, May 24, 1837, and was educated in the schools of Mashpee. Committee: Roads and Bridges. Residence, No. 31 Edinboro Street.

**FIRST WOMEN ELECTED TO THE
MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES (1923):**

**Sylvia Donaldson
&
Susan Fitzpatrick**





**FIRST WOMAN ELECTED TO
THE MA SENATE (1937):**

Sybil Holmes (Brookline)

*For more information about firsts for
females in MA government,
see the Women's Caucus webpage

**FIRST ELECTED FEMALE BLACK
STATE LEGISLATOR (HOUSE):**

Doris Bunte



Doris Bunte
H 1973-1985



Bill Owens
H 1973-1974
S 1975-1982
S 1989-1992

**FIRST ELECTED BLACK
STATE SENATOR:**

Bill Owens

**FIRST OPENLY LESBIAN OR GAY
CANDIDATE ELECTED TO THE
STATE LEGISLATURE
(HOUSE 1975-1976):**

Elaine Noble

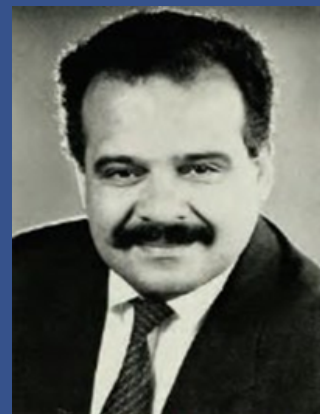


**FIRST WOMAN ELECTED TO
STATEWIDE OFFICE IN
MASSACHUSETTS AS
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (1987)
*NOTE THE OFFICE OF LT.
GOVERNOR IS ELECTED JOINTLY
WITH THE GOVERNOR**

Evelyn Murphy

**FIRST PERSON OF LATIN AMERICAN
DESCENT TO ELECTED TO THE MA
HOUSE AND THE FIRST PERSON OF
HISPANIC DESCENT TO HOLD
STATEWIDE OFFICE IN THE
COMMONWEALTH:**

Nelson Merced



**Nelson Merced
H 1989-1992**

**FIRST FEMALE BLACK STATE
SENATOR:**

Dianne Wilkerson



**FIRST TRANSGENDER PERSON
ELECTED TO SERVE IN THE STATE
LEGISLATURE (MA HOUSE) IN THE
UNITED STATES**

Althea Garrison*

*Garrison was outed against her will in 1992 by the press and has never identified as transgender ([more info here](#)).

**FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN
LEGISLATOR IN MA AND THE FIRST
FEMALE OF LATIN AMERICAN
DESCENT ELECTED TO THE MA
SENATE (2009-2023):**

Sonia R. Chang-Diaz



**FIRST CAMBODIAN AMERICAN
STATE LEGISLATOR IN THE UNITED
STATES (2015-CURRENT):**

Rady Mom



**FIRST BRAZILIAN-AMERICAN
WOMEN ELECTED TO THE STATE
LEGISLATURE (2023-CURRENT):**

Rita Mendes & Priscila Sousa

**FIRST CENTRAL AMERICAN
ELECTED TO THE STATE
LEGISLATURE (2023-CURRENT):**

Judith Garcia

